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Application No. 10/608,257
Office action dated November 30, 2006
Response dated March 30, 2007

MAR 30 2007**REMARKS**

After entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-18 will be pending. Claims 3, 4, 10, and 13 stand withdrawn from consideration. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 1, 5-9, 11, 12, and 14-18.

Claim 19 was rejected in the Office action. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, and in order to advance prosecution, claim 19 is cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue at least claim 19 in one or more continuation applications.

Applicants submit that the cancellation of claim 19 places the application in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the Office action, including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. Applicants submit that the following remarks are fully responsive to the Office action, and that all pending claims are patentable over the cited references.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by United States patent no. 6,120,500 to Bednarek et al. ("Bednarek"). Though Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner, the rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 19 herein in favor of one or more continuation applications.

Withdrawn Claims

Claims 3, 4, 10, and 13 were withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 3 and 4 depend from, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as, claim 1. Claims 10 and 13 depend from, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as, claim 8. In light of the allowance of generic claims 1 and 8, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and indicate the allowability of the withdrawn claims. If the Examiner believes that an amendment is necessary to consider and allow the withdrawn claims, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and request that all rejections be withdrawn, that all pending claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue. If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application to be in other than condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action.

Applicants have provided for a one-month extension of time herewith. Should a further extension of time be deemed necessary for this paper to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition therefor under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

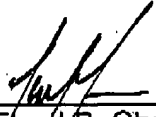
Authorization is hereby granted to charge any fees due with the filing of this document, including any fees for any further extensions of time deemed necessary, to Deposit Account No. 50-1129 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 0B-044301US/82410-0014.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 30, 2007

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